

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Canceled)

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2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of fastening a building board to a framework of a building board according to claim 1,~~ A method of fastening a building board to a framework of a building, which is characterized in that a building board having flat configuration and provided on the rear surface thereof with engaging protrusions, and an elongated fixture which is adapted to be detachably engaged with the building board are employed, and that the building board is assembled in advance together with the elongated fixture through an engagement between the engaging protrusions and the elongated fixture, and then the elongated fixture is fixed to the framework of a building, thereby fastening the building board to the framework of a building,

wherein said fixture is constructed such that it comprises a main body which is designed to be entirely or partially contacted with the rear surface of a building board; engaging holes formed in the main body; a rising portion formed at one end in the longitudinal direction of the main body; an engaging region formed at or near said rising portion; an extension portion extending from the distal edge of said rising portion in a direction away from and parallel with said main body; and an engaging tongue formed at the other end in the longitudinal direction of the main body; wherein said engaging tongue is positioned and shaped such that it ~~can be~~ is inserted into said engaging region of the fixture attached to a neighboring building board as a couple of building boards each having the fixture attached to the rear surface thereof are positioned neighboring in vertical direction; and

wherein after a first building board to be disposed at a lower level is fastened at first to the framework of a building by taking advantage of the fixture attached to the rear surface of the building board, a second building board to be disposed over said first building board is placed along the upper horizontal edge of said first building board and fastened to the framework of a building by inserting the engaging tongue of the fixture attached to the rear surface of the second building board into the engaging region formed in the fixture of the first building board.

3-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method of fastening a building board to a framework of a building by making use of a fixture; wherein said fixture is constructed such that said fixture comprises a main body which is designed to be entirely or partially contacted with the rear surface of a building board; engaging holes formed in the main body; a rising portion formed at one end in the longitudinal direction of the main body; an engaging region formed at or near said rising portion; an extension portion extending from the distal edge of said rising portion in a direction away from and parallel with said main body; and an engaging tongue formed at the other end in the longitudinal direction of the main body; wherein said engaging tongue is positioned and shaped such that said engaging tongue is inserted into said engaging region of the fixture attached to a neighboring building board as a couple of building boards each having the fixture attached to the rear surface thereof are positioned neighboring in vertical direction; and

wherein after a first building board to be disposed at a lower level is fastened at first to the framework of a building by taking advantage of the fixture attached to the rear surface of the building board, a second building board to be disposed over said first building board is placed along the upper horizontal edge of said first building board and fastened to the framework of a building by inserting the engaging tongue of the fixture attached to the rear surface of the second building board into the engaging region formed in the fixture of the first building board.

13. (Original) The method of fastening a building board to a framework of a building according to claim 12, wherein said fixture is fixed to the rear surface of the building board with at least the extension portion thereof being protruded from the peripheral edge of the building board.

14. (Original) The method of fastening a building board to a framework of a building according to claim 13, wherein a plurality of said fixtures are fixed to the rear surface of said building board at predetermined intervals in conformity with the intervals of the

vertical members of a building.

15. (Original) The method of fastening a building board to a framework of a building according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said fixture is fixed to the rear surface of the building board by taking advantage of a hole formed in the main body and by making use of a driving rivet whose tip opens while being driven.

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cont 16. (Original) The method of fastening a building board to a framework of a building according to claim 12, wherein said building board is a ceramic building board.

17. (Original) The method of fastening a building board to a framework of a building according to claim 12 or 16, wherein a rabbet joint-forming work is applied to at least upper and lower horizontal edges of said building board.

18-23. (Canceled)
